

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A biodegradable fibrous support for mulching of the soil, the support being provided with a reinforcing means in the form of a grid, characterized in that the grid is produced of a biodegradable polymer chosen from the group comprising polylactic acid, polycaprolactone, viscose, modified viscose, polyhydroxybutyrate and polyhydroxyalcanoate, by themselves or as a mixture, the grid being either maintained on the whole or part of at least one support face, or incorporated into the whole or part of the mass of the support.

22. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that the grid is made exclusively of modified viscose threads.

23. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that the weight of the grid is between 10 and 50 g/m², advantageously in the order of 20 g/m².

24. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that the grid is positioned exclusively in the area of the fixing points of the support on the ground.

25. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that the grid is glued directly on the surface of the fibrous support by means of a water-resistant biodegradable glue chosen from the group comprising ethylene polyvinyl alcohol (EVOH) and polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), by themselves or as a mixture, the glue representing between 5 and 50%, advantageously 15 %, by weight of the grid.

26. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that the grid is unrolled directly on the fibrous support during its manufacture.

27. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that it contains thermobonding fibres representing from 5 to 50%, advantageously between 10 and 15%, by weight of the support.

28. (new) A support according to Claim 27, characterized in that the thermobonding fibres are composed of PLA-fibres.

29. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that it contains a hydrophobic resin representing from 0,5 to 15% by weight of the support, chosen from the group comprising urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyamide-amine-epichlorhydrin resins, polyethyleneimine resins, starch derivatives, by themselves or as a mixture.

30. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that it contains carbon black representing from 0,5 to 4% by weight of the support.

31. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that it is coated with an aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable natural latex obtained from the rubber tree.

32. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that it is coated with an aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable prevulcanized natural latex obtained from the rubber tree.

33. (new) A support according to Claim 32, characterized in that the stabilizing agents are chosen from the group comprising the vegetable proteins (casein, soya protein), the mineral fillers (talc, calcium carbonate), by themselves or as a mixture.

34. (new) A support according to Claim 32, characterized in that the preservative agents are chosen from the group comprising the animal proteins (glycerin), the tannins, the natural colouring agent indigo, the chitosan, by themselves or as a mixture.

35. (new) A support according to Claim 32, characterized in that the solution is coated in an amount of 10 to 200 g/m², advantageously between 90 and 100 g/m².

36. (new) A support according to Claim 32, characterized in that the natural latex (therefore biodegradable) used is obtained from *Hevea Brasiliensis* and has a dry rubber concentration at least of 60%.

37. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that the fibre composition of the support is as follows:

from 40 to 100% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres;

from 0 to 60% by weight of deciduous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

38. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that the fibre composition of the support is as follows:

from 80 to 100% by weight of annual plant fibres,

from 0 to 20% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

39. (new) A support according to Claim 21, characterized in that the fibre composition of the support is as follows:

from 20 to 100% by weight of coniferous bleached kraft fibres,

from 0 to 40% by weight of annual plant fibres,

from 0 to 40% by weight of rayon fibres.